
Circular Letter to All District Organizers of the United Communist Party of America From Executive Secretary Alfred Wagenknecht, February 1, 1921.

DoJ/FBI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 939, doc. 54.

February 1, 1921.

To All DOs:

We are sending you a copy of No. 1 and 2 of the paper issued by the Communist Unity Committee. These papers are being set you so that you may be kept posted as to the activities of this “third party” committee and thereby be better able to meet the propaganda of this “third party” committee.

The “third party” committee is composed of a baker’s dozen of comrades led by Raphael [Alexander Bittelman], formerly editor of a Jewish [Yiddish language] CP paper. In the CP split he attempted to keep the Jewish CP federation neutral. He failed in this, part of the federation going with the UCP and part with the CP. Subsequently he joined the UCP. The CEC of the UCP was at the time looking for a Jewish editor, and offered the position to Raphael [Bittelman]. He refused to serve the party in the capacity of editor because the CEC insisted upon a LO [Legal Organ] for the masses and he insisted upon a theoretical magazine for the few.

Raphael [Bittelman] subsequently led about 15 of his Jewish comrades into the ranks of the CP, bolting the UCP. But whereas the CP accepted the rank and file which Raphael led into the party, it refused membership to Raphael [Bittelman]. Having proven himself unreliable and unfit for leadership, he is now attempting to establish a leadership for himself by organizing his “unity committee.”

Fraternally,

Paul Holt [Alfred Wagenknecht],
Exsec.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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